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Mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations system has further intensified its effort to mainstream the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development throughout its work. In a survey conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 36 United Nations system entities provided updates on their efforts to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, which capture also their efforts to mainstream the three dimensions of sustainable development. The information thus generated demonstrates the response of the United Nations system to the vision and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.

The present report contains an overview of those actions and initiatives implemented by United Nations system entities, as reflected in the survey. Of note is a continuing effort by system entities to align their new strategic programmes of work with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, under the guidance of their respective intergoveramental bodies. A number of the entities also initiated organizational innovations in order to be better positioned to respond to the transformative nature of the Goals, by setting up dedicated coordination units. A new institutional mindset is gradually taking shape, with a growing emphasis on moving away from silos to interlinkages, to working in partnership and to seeking synergies across the Organization's workplan. Support to Member States is likewise geared towards an integrated approach, focusing on linkages and nexuses among the Goals, and there is a clear willingness to enhance collaboration within the United Nations system and with business and civil society stakeholders. The aim is to build on comparative advantages and focus on adding value to efforts at the country level towards achieving the Goals.

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I. Introduction

1. In General Assembly resolution 72/216, Member States took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/72/75–E/2017/56) and reiterated the call of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the further mainstreaming of the three dimensions throughout the United Nations system. In this regard, it invited the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

2. In response to that request, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs invited United Nations system entities, including the secretariats of United Nations conventions and research institutions, to participate in a survey regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The information gathered as part of the survey serves as an essential input to the present report. The findings of the survey will also be used to analyse United Nations system response to the implementation requirements for the 2030 Agenda and the Goals.

3. The present report contains an overview of the actions and initiatives implemented by United Nations system entities, as reflected in the survey. Of note is a continuing effort by system entities to align their new strategic programmes of work with the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, under the guidance of their respective intergovernmental bodies. A number of the entities also initiated organizational innovations in order to be better positioned to respond to the transformative nature of the Goals, by setting up dedicated coordination units. A new institutional mindset is also gradually taking shape, with a growing emphasis on moving away from silos to interlinkages, to working in partnership and to seeking synergies across the Organization's workplan. United Nations system support to Member States is likewise geared towards an integrated approach, focusing on linkages and nexuses among the Goals; and there is a clear willingness to enhance collaboration within the system and with business and civil society stakeholders. The aim is to build on comparative advantages and focus on adding value to efforts at the country level towards achieving the Goals.

4. The present overview, by its nature, does not do full justice to the wealth of information contained in the findings of the survey. In order to ensure that such a repertoire of information adds value to the analysis and coordination of United Nations system action on the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has consolidated the survey findings into a user-friendly, searchable online database, to be regularly updated by responding entities, which is available on the following webpage: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/unsystem/index.html.

II. Integrated strategy for implementation

5. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the various governing bodies of United Nations system entities have taken forward-looking strategic decisions to guide concrete action aimed at expediting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. For example, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has mainstreamed the 2030 Agenda and the follow-up in the work of its governing bodies, particularly in the context of the biennial session of the Commission, in which the Commission's programme of work is presented and submitted to its member States. As an example, at the thirty-

sixth session of the Commission, held in 2016, the 2030 Agenda was at the heart of both the programme and the discussions during the meeting. Moreover, the position document presented to governments on that occasion, entitled *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*,[1] explicitly intertwined the Commission's analysis and policy recommendations with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. In the case of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, a strategy and plan of action regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved by the Executive Committee of the Commission in December 2015. The Strategy is a multifaceted approach to supporting member States through adaptation, priority-setting, policymaking and with the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda. The response is at once conceptual and organizational: it refines the functions and the structure of the organization to allow for optimal responsiveness to the needs of member States within the context of the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the strategy started in January 2016, with the establishment of a unit dedicated to work concerning the 2030 Agenda, the main mandate of which is to coordinate and complement the ongoing work of all divisions of the Commission in order to ensure a coherent response by the Commission to member States' needs, an enhanced ability to lead regional-level processes, foster intraregional dialogue, advocate a common regional prioritization of work within the new global agenda, produce knowledge on thematic issues of the 2030 Agenda that are relevant to the region and fulfil the Commission's follow-up and review mandates in that respect.

7. In order to advance its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its seventy-second session, adopted resolution 72/6 on committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to (a) promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development; (b) support the process to define a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda and to address challenges to its achievement in Asia and the Pacific, pursuant to the recommendations of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development; and (c) strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda through an integrated approach, inter alia, with the provision of analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and by enhancing data and statistical capacities.

8. In addition, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested its Executive Secretary to continue to provide capacity-building opportunities to member States, by leveraging existing expertise and its intergovernmental forum to contribute to the strengthening of their capacity. Such support covers issues relating to financing for development, including domestic resource mobilization, as well as developing integrated approaches, models and tools in enhancing regional cooperation on achieving the Goals with a special emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

9. The technical and governing bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have played a key role in providing guidance and identifying priorities for FAO contributions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The relevant decisions of the Conference, the Organization's main decision-making body, were informed by the work of technical and thematic

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.II.G.11.

bodies (fisheries, forestry, agriculture, trade and commodities), as well as that of the Committee on World Food Security, the regional conferences of FAO, and other intergovernmental platforms of FAO or hosted by the Organization, such as the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Those bodies all discussed the policy, programmatic and financial priorities of FAO work on the Goals, under specific agenda items during their sessions held in 2016 and 2017. Technical and regional bodies, as well as the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, also discussed ways to fully integrate the Goals into the programme of work and the results framework of FAO.

10. International Labour Organization (ILO) action on the 2030 Agenda and the Goals is based on platforms that were discussed and adopted by ILO tripartite constituents (governments, workers and employers) through its governing organs. Those platforms include the report of the Director General to the International Labour Conference at its 105th session, entitled "The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda", and the resolution on advancing social justice through decent work, adopted by the Conference at that session. The resolution requests ILO to play a convening role around the United Nations system follow-up to and review of the decent work dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The Organization's implementation plan for the Goals sets out Organization-wide activities and coordination requirements. As requested by the Governing Body, the Office of the Director General subsequently prepared a roll-out strategy for operationalizing the implementation plan. The Strategy proposes six action categories: (a) capacity-building; (b) guidance development; (c) outreach; (d) research and policy; (e) communication; and (f) partnerships.

11. Reflecting the scope of investment required and the need to ensure the impact of every dollar invested, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), through its strategic framework for 2016–2025, is stepping up its efforts in the context of the Goals. Underpinned by an overarching vision of "enabling inclusive and sustainable rural transformation", the strategic framework is based around enabling the organization to play a larger role in helping countries fulfil their priorities relating to the 2030 Agenda by: (a) mobilizing substantially more funds and resources for investment in rural areas; (b) strengthening the impact of IFAD country programmes through innovation, knowledge-sharing, partnerships and policy engagement; and (c) delivering development results in a cost-effective way that responds to the evolving needs of member countries. In addition, IFAD has revamped its results management framework around its contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

12. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is fully committed to contributing to the achievement of the Goals, while delivering on its mandate to support member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Organization's medium-term programme framework 2018–2021, adopted by its governing body, the Industrial Development Board, provides strategic guidance for the programmatic activities of the Organization to realize its mandate of supporting countries in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. For the first time, all levels of UNIDO performance and development results are integrated into the programme framework, from the management of its internal operations to the achievement of industry-related Sustainable Development Goals.

13. As adopted by the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board just over a year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Programme's strategic plan for 2017–2021 aligns the organization's work to the 2030 Agenda global call to action, which prioritizes efforts to end poverty, hunger and inequality, encompassing humanitarian as well as development efforts. The strategic plan is guided by the Goals, in particular

Goal 2 on ending hunger and Goal 17 on revitalizing global partnerships for the implementation of the Goals. It introduces a new planning and operational structure, including the implementation of results-based country portfolios that will maximize WFP contribution to governments' efforts towards achieving the Goals.

III. Sustainable Development Goal-specific work programmes

14. Many United Nations system entities have followed up on the strategic decisions of their respective intergovernmental bodies by formulating Sustainable Development Goal-specific work programmes. For example, the programme and budget of ILO for 2018–19 links budget outcomes to relevant Goals and selected priority targets.

15. The International Civil Aviation Organization recognizes that achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals will rely on advances and innovations in sustainable transport, including aviation. Although sustainable transport and aviation are not represented by a stand-alone Goal, they are both mainstreamed across the Goals. In 2016, the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization, at its thirty-ninth session, unanimously adopted resolution A39-25, on aviation's contribution towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In doing so, all 192 member States of the Organization recognized the essential role of aviation in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the fundamental interlinkages between the Goals, the Organization's business plan and its five strategic objectives and the "No country left behind" initiative. As a result, the Goals are now guiding the implementation of the Organization's 2017–2019 business plan. A reporting tool is being rolled out to capture progress on the implementation of the business plan as it contributes to the achievement of the Goals by 2030.

16. The United Nations Environment Programme has integrated the implementation of the Goals into its medium-term strategy for 2018–22 and its programme of work for 2018–19. Over 86 targets are related to environmental sustainability, including at least one in each of the 17 Goals. Thus, the Programme, with its global environmental mandate, takes the lead in facilitating the monitoring and reporting for 26 environment-related indicators as identified in the global indicator framework (see General Assembly resolution 71/313, annex) and also has a key role in promoting coherent delivery on the environmental dimension of all 17 Goals.

17. Within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), dedicated sections of the Office focus on sustainable development and on the right to development, while the work of the whole Office, including its strategic planning, is closely linked with promoting the human rights-based implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which features prominently in OHCHR work at headquarters and in the field. OHCHR contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda through its mainstreaming work at the United Nations inter-agency level, as well as through preparing substantive inputs for the discussions of the high-level political forum, strengthening the capacity of Member States and other stakeholders (including United Nations country teams) as regards the national voluntary reviews, and raising awareness of linkages between the Goals and human rights (including in the context of the high-level political forum).

18. In 2016, the annual report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the implementation of its strategic plan, 2014–2017, contained information, for the first time, on how the implementation of the strategic plan contributed to the implementation of the Goals. The tracking, monitoring and reporting of such support will be further enhanced in the context of the implementation of the strategic plan for 2018–2021. Through the implementation of the strategic plan, 2018–2021, UN-Women provides support to

Member States, at their request, including on integrated policy advice, comprehensive and disaggregated data and capacity development. In the context of the overall orientation of the strategic plan, 2018–2021, UN-Women activities consistently include support for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals.

19. The United Nations Capital Development Fund has articulated its new strategic framework for 2018–2021, which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda, primarily focusing on Goal 1, poverty eradication, and on Goal 17, the means of implementation. The Fund contributes to the achievement of other Goals by identifying targets where local finance solutions can overcome entrenched obstacles to progress. At the programme level, all new programmes will be aligned with at least one or more of the Goals.

20. The United Nations Population Fund strategic plan for 2018–2021 addresses transformative results that will contribute to the achievement of the Goals. The Population Fund is implementing its strategic plan to mobilize and align its institutional strategies in support of the 2030 Agenda and is monitoring the 17 relevant prioritized indicators. Furthermore, the common chapter of the strategic plans of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Population Fund and UN-Women focuses on poverty eradication, gender equality and women's empowerment, data, the humanitarian and development nexus, climate change, adolescent and maternal health and HIV. The roll-out of the common chapter will shape the entities' joint contribution to the implementation of the Goals in a collaborative manner, in accordance with their respective mandates, and in partnership with other members of the United Nations system, by building on each entity's transformative strength.

21. The five strategic priorities of the United Nations Children's Fund[2] (UNICEF) directly relate to 11 of the Goals. Some sector-specific plans and strategies also take the Goals into account. For example, a strategy for health and a strategy for water, sanitation and hygiene, were both developed by UNICEF in 2015 and are aligned with the timeline for the Goals (2016–2030). The health strategy is focused on two overarching goals, which are: (a) end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths and (b) promote the health and development of all children. The water, sanitation and hygiene strategy focuses on the first two targets of Goal 6 as the centrepiece of its programming work. In addition, UNICEF has been strongly focused on ending violence against children and was a key partner in launching the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. UNICEF, together with Save the Children and other key partners, launched the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and released a guide to achieve that vision, which places achieving this goal explicitly within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

22. Given the cross-cutting nature of learning and training, United Nations Institute for Training and Research undertakes multiple programmatic activities as part of its strategic objectives in support of specific Goals. More than 50 per cent of the 75 result areas of its programme budget are aligned with Goals 12, 13 and 16. The Institute also contributes to Goals 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 17. In addition, its strategy in support of Goal 11 also involves greater voice for cities in relevant intergovernmental deliberations.

23. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization is in the process of elaborating a strategy to report on progress towards the Goals through its delivery of technical cooperation in its administrative system. By linking the Organization's

[2] Child protection and social inclusion, child survival, education, emergencies and humanitarian action, and gender equality.

results-based management code to the respective Goals, UNIDO project managers will also be reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

24. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has undertaken a number of initiatives to mainstream the Goals into its programming efforts and technical assistance delivery. Through its Strategic Planning and Inter-Agency Affairs Unit, the Office continues to review and advise on new and already existing results frameworks for its global, regional and national projects in order to ensure alignment with the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, in the course of 2017, the Unit conducted training workshops on results-based management and the Goals, in field offices in Central Asia, Pakistan, Eastern Africa, Colombia, Peru and Thailand, and mapped programme and project outcomes and indicators to the Goals. Further workshops for the results-based management quality assurance focal points are planned for 2018. Moreover, during 2017, the Unit developed a manual on results-based management and the Sustainable Development Goals, to be published in 2018, which will guide staff in incorporating the Goals into the project planning, monitoring and evaluation processes of the Office. The Office is currently undergoing a peer review of its results-based management approach. It is expected that the findings of the peer review will help to strengthen the alignment of the Office's work with the Goals.

25. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States has prepared an action plan to strengthen the complementarities between its programmes of action and the 2030 Agenda. The action plan provides an analysis of the commonalities and complementarities between the relevant programmes of action and the Goals and set the parameters for how to enhance synergies between those programmes of action and the Goals in the work of the Office. The action plan offers a road map to enhance synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the programmes of action at every stage of the Office's planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting cycle. The Office has also integrated the 2030 Agenda into its programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and included related activities in annual workplans.

26. The Sustainable Development Goals are an important feature in programmes and activities of the World Intellectual Property Organization. Goal 9, in particular its innovation component, is at the heart of the Organization's mission and is the most central to its mandate. Gender equality (Goal 5) and partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17) are cross-cutting issues, which are mainstreamed across all of the Organization's strategic goals. Out of a total of 31 programmes included in the programme and budget for 2018–2019, 20 are linked to the Goals. The Organization's development cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building activities are strategically placed to deliver support to its member States as they integrate the Goals into their national sustainable development plans.

27. In the World Trade Organization, an in-house, interdivisional task force was created in 2016 to deal specifically with coordinating and responding efficiently and effectively to monitoring the achievement of the trade-related targets in the 2030 Agenda. The task force meets at least once every quarter and is chaired by the Deputy Director General of the Organization. The Organization has since worked towards several of the targets that pertain to trade, beginning with Goal 2 on zero hunger, more specifically target 2.b, which urges the reduction of distortions in agricultural markets. Similarly, as relates to Goal 3 on good health, an amendment to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights will make it easier for developing countries to have a secure legal pathway for access to affordable medicines in line with target 3.b. In addition, for Goal 8, the Organization continues to be successful in mobilizing resources under the Aid for Trade initiative, in line with target 8.a.

28. While not addressing specific Goals, the strategic plan for 2018–2021 of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and sets out the Office's ambition to become a recognized resource entity, providing collaborative advantages that expand the implementation capacity of Governments, the United Nations and other partners, in support of the 2030 Agenda. Bearing in mind the universality, mutual reinforcement and interdependence of the 17 Goals, UNOPS seeks to make direct and indirect contributions towards the achievement of all the Goals.

IV. Supporting Member States to accelerate implementation

29. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has started collaborating with national governments on the alignment of the Goals with relevant regional development strategies and national sectoral strategies. In Africa, FAO advocated the inclusion of provisions relating to the Goals in the key regional strategies related to agriculture, such as the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, as well as the mainstreaming of the Goals in respective national strategic and investment plans.

30. As part of its programming directions for the seventh replenishment period (2018–2022), the Global Environment Facility proposes to support countries with integrated national planning to enhance coordinated planning and coordination in respect of the Rio Conventions and the 2030 Agenda. By facilitating the convergence of national plans for the implementation of the Goals with the priorities and objectives of multilateral environmental agreements, the Facility is assisting decision makers with integrated formulation and implementation of policies and actions by taking the Goals into account together with multilateral environmental agreements, rather than in a fragmented fashion.

31. The Technical Cooperation Programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency serves as a major vehicle for technology transfer and capacity-building. It comprises national, regional and interregional projects formulated within areas where nuclear techniques can address development challenges, such as hunger, human health, energy and climate change. The Agency is working closely with its member States and supports them in their efforts to achieve the Goals, and has organized numerous outreach events during major conferences on how nuclear technology can help to achieve the Goals.

32. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its partners provide analytical and technical assistance and/or capacity-building support to countries in implementing their various work streams relating to the Convention. In so doing, the secretariat also provides support for implementing the 2030 Agenda. The extent and specifics of the support provided vary depending on each work programme, country needs, strategic priorities and the availability of funds, among other factors. The short-term action plan (2017–2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, which was adopted by the parties to the Convention in December 2016, includes more than 100 concrete activities relating to various Aichi Biodiversity Targets and will contribute to implementing Goals 14 and 15, among others.

33. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction provides normative and technical support to countries to integrate disaster risk reduction into their national development plans and policies. Such activities include the provision of support in taking a disaster-risk informed approach to national strategies for achieving the

Goals; in implementing the 2030 Agenda in accordance with disaster risk reduction-specific indicators; and in promoting the integration of national and local disaster reduction strategies, which are to be developed by 2020 in accordance with the relevant target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (see General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II, para. 18).

34. UN-Women provides support to Member States in the development of national development strategies and national gender equality action plans. In 2016, UN-Women provided such support to 82 countries in order to strengthen gender equality priorities in their national, sectorial and local development plans and budgets. As a result, 28 countries reported increases in budget allocations towards achieving Goal 5, on gender equality and women's empowerment.

35. Through its multisectoral, multi-stakeholder approach, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) aims to advance country-level progress towards ending AIDS while contributing to broader health, development, gender equality and human rights outcomes. The entire strategy of UNAIDS promotes the advancement of a rights-based, inclusive approach that ensures a people-centred response that is built on the participation of civil society, women, young people, people living with HIV and key populations, thereby leaving no one behind.

36. With regard to the implementation of specific programmes for integrating technical assistance, analytical research and capacity-building activities, the Programme for Country Partnership of UNIDO is an innovative model for accelerating the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It is becoming an instrument to operationalize the Organization's mandate and, by extension, to achieve Goal 9.

37. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development is currently assisting six Western Balkan countries and United Nations system entities to strengthen the mainstreaming of the Goals and the implementation thereof in the context of accession to the European Union.

38. The member countries of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement met in 2015, 2016 and 2017 to undertake a budget analysis so as to ensure more and better spending to tackle the underlying causes of malnutrition, and to generate increased resources from both domestic and external sources. The analysis is conducted through the regular tracking of budget allocations relating to nutrition against multisectoral nutrition plans, in a transparent manner. By 2017, 47 countries had conducted an analysis of their government budgets, with 22 countries having done so for the second time.

V. Working in partnership

39. In their efforts to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations system entities are increasingly moving away from silos to seeking interlinkages among the Goals. There is also a clear willingness to enhance collaboration within the system as well as with business and civil society stakeholders, building on comparative advantages and focusing on adding value to efforts at the country level towards achieving the Goals.

40. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has partnered with the World Bank Group in a number of areas to support the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, along with the United Nations, the World Bank Group and others, IMF is part of the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, which aims to better support countries in the challenges they face in relation to their tax systems. The Fund also participates regularly in meetings of the United Nations System Chief Executives

Board for Coordination (CEB) and meetings of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus.

41. Collaboration between IFAD and its Rome-based agency partners, FAO and WFP, has been elevated to a strategic level in response to the growing impetus for the three agencies to enhance their collaboration in the context of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, FAO, IFAD and WFP developed a joint strategy on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies for delivering on the 2030 Agenda. Collaboration is ongoing on joint servicing initiatives and on support for project design, supervision and implementation.

42. As a United Nations specialized agency, the International Telecommunication Union collaborates and interacts with entities within the United Nations system. It participates in governance processes, subsidiary mechanisms, inter-agency coordination networks and in joint initiatives in order to foster greater cooperation, information and knowledge-sharing so as to achieve coherence and synergies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress towards the Goals. In this regard, the Union participates in the following coordination mechanisms: CEB, including the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs Plus, the Regional Coordination Mechanism, the Inter-Agency Task Team of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development.

43. Partnership with all major stakeholder groups is considered a key to achieving food and nutrition security. FAO member States adopted a strategy for partnerships with civil society organizations and a strategy for partnerships with the private sector to strengthen corporate and country-focused engagements with the private sector, business enterprises, civil society and non-governmental organizations, farmer organizations, especially those supporting women farmers, academia and parliamentarians. The main areas of collaboration relate to FAO field programmes, knowledge-sharing and capacity development, policy dialogue, the joint use of resources, normative activities, advocacy and communication, and South-South cooperation.

44. The International Monetary Fund also engages on a regular basis with civil society organizations in order to promote progress towards achieving the Goals, including more recently in the context of the pilot initiatives on inequality and gender. For example, the Fund's team for the Republic of the Congo had constructive discussions with civil society organizations on governance in the oil sector, which helped in the design of governance measures to reduce poverty and inequality. In Zambia, the inclusion of water and sanitation as part of social spending in the programme supported by IMF drew on a recent position paper, prepared by civil society organizations, on gender and inequality issues.

45. While OHCHR routinely and at all levels engages with various stakeholders, some of the main stakeholders the Office works with are national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, including representatives of grass-roots organizations and marginalized groups. OHCHR supports the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, which, in line with the Merida Declaration, emphasizes the role of such institutions in the achievement of the Goals.

46. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has worked through urban observatories, city leadership and local government ministries to engage local stakeholder groups in various countries. At the regional and national levels, UN-Habitat has worked with such relevant regional bodies as the regional commissions of the United Nations, regional mapping agencies, United Cities and Local Governments and others to engage blocks of countries and/or cities in

supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals. At the global level, UN-Habitat also works directly with United Nations system entities, other multilateral international agencies and organizations to support the achievement of the Goals.

47. The Universal Postal Union has been engaging with private sector stakeholders. In the area of financial inclusion, the Union has developed a technical assistance scheme with the support of external stakeholders (Visa and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) for the implementation of financial inclusion projects through digital financial services at the country level. In its engagement with private sector and other relevant stakeholder groups, the Union, through its Consultative Committee, which gathers the postal stakeholders at large (clients, workers' unions, industry groups, non-governmental organizations, etc.), is promoting the implementation of the relevant Goals in line with the Union's strategy in the fields of trade facilitation and e-commerce in developing countries. In addition, a number of postal services and private operators have integrated efforts to achieve the Goals into their strategies as a part of their corporate social responsibility policies.

48. The World Bank Group recognizes that a central tenet of the Goals is partnership at the global, regional, and country levels and with that in mind, the Group is providing a platform for coordinated action. Partnership is one of the Group's key pillars in support of the 2030 Agenda. The Group is involved in numerous global partnerships among different stakeholders: the private sector, local governments and mayors, civil society, foundations, academia and youth.

49. The World Health Organization attaches great value to expanding engagement with Governments, United Nations system entities and civil society stakeholders in the planning, monitoring and implementation of efforts towards achieving the health-related Goals at all levels. For example, the Organization works closely with member States and their implementing partners to support the development of national strategic plans and programme reviews with regard to malaria, strengthening work on vector control, surveillance and elimination. Through its Stop Tuberculosis Department, the Organization has been collaborating actively with UNICEF, UNAIDS, ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration on specific interventions and multisectoral collaboration towards ending epidemics and supporting vulnerable groups (including children, workers, refugees and migrants). Through its Global Malaria Programme, the Organization is working with UNOPS on the implementation of two work streams, funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in support of the Strategy for Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion through (a) the monitoring of antimalarial drug efficacy and resistance in the Subregion; and (b) establishing a malaria elimination database for the Subregion. The HIV Department collaborates, and has launched joint country envelopes and planning, with UNAIDS, UNICEF and across the United Nations.

50. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has worked with other United Nations system entities, such as the International Organization for Migration, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons, to ensure that all persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are included in its guiding vision through the principle of leaving no one behind that underpins the 2030 Agenda. As set out in the Office's strategic directions for 2017–2021, the Office will build on the commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, and on the Sustainable Development Goals to promote the inclusion of refugees, the internally displaced and stateless people in national development frameworks. The Office has also been engaging with States, host communities, civil society and key national service providers to promote the inclusion of refugees,

internally displaced and stateless people in mainstream national systems, including health and education, pending durable solutions to their displacement. Additional guidance has been developed by the Office relating to programming specifically for education and for the prevention of and response to statelessness, in order to further support the achievement of the relevant Goals. The establishment of the Division of Resilience and Solutions at the headquarters level in 2018 is further in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, bearing in mind the development-humanitarian nexus. The Division will foster and institutionalize closer partnerships to ensure the Goals of the 2030 Agenda are achieved for displaced populations.

51. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is currently working on a global space partnership in support of the Goals. Through that partnership, the Office would act as a "one-stop shop", coordinating among multiple providers of space-derived data, information, services and products. The Office is currently developing a "Space for women" project, which is expected to be launched in late 2018. It is strongly linked to Goal 5, on the empowerment of women and gender equality, and Goal 4, on quality education, and is an example of how the Office is reshaping its projects to be more in line with the Goals and with a view to fostering partnerships for developing innovative solutions that will assist countries in monitoring progress towards and achieving the Goals.

VI. Conclusion

52. Mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development is essential to achieving the vision and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, such mainstreaming embodies the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, with the emphasis on linkages and nexuses, the imperative of moving from silos to integration and synergies, and the spirit of partnerships, none of which will materialize in the absence of progress in the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The survey findings suggest that the United Nations system organizations are stepping up to this challenge by aligning their work programmes and priorities with the Goals, by initiating organizational change and by linking results-based management with the delivery of the Goals.

53. The initiatives outlined in the present report are encouraging steps in the right direction and they deserve to be supported and nurtured so as to ensure their impact in supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals. United Nations system organizations should also consider learning from each other and exchanging experiences and lessons learned on how to mainstream the three dimensions of sustainable development, keeping in mind their respective mandates and comparative advantages. In the final analysis, mainstreaming the three dimensions of sustainable development should be an integral part of the work programmes of all United Nations system entities and of their organizational structure.

United Nations A/73/82

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 April 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 114 (d) of the preliminary list*
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Czechia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

With reference to the candidature of the Czech Republic to the Human Rights Council for the period 2019–2021 and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, I have the honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Czech Republic for its candidature to the Council (see annex).

The Czech Republic, as a State party to all major human rights treaties, is fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights at the national and international levels. As a member of the Human Rights Council during the periods 2006–2007 and 2011–2014, the Czech Republic actively and constructively contributed to advancing the human rights agenda. It stands ready to further impart that approach to the work of the Council.

(*Signed*) Marie **Chatardová**

* A/73/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Czechia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Czechia to the Human Rights Council, 2019–2021

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

The Government of the Czech Republic pledges to work for the promotion and protection of human rights during its future membership of the Human Rights Council through the following voluntary commitments:

At the international level

- As a member of the Human Rights Council, the Czech Republic will draw on and offer its unique experience of having made the transition to an open and democratic State based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.
- The Czech Republic will work for the advancement of human rights in international human rights forums. We will actively participate in the work of the Human Rights Council, with a view to further enhancing its credibility and efficiency. The Czech Republic attaches great importance to the role of prevention and therefore will support an adequate and timely response to human rights violations and abuses wherever they occur. We will speak openly on both country-specific and thematic issues, in particular those requiring the urgent action of the Council.
- During deliberations of the Human Rights Council, the Czech Republic will collaborate in a transparent manner and in good faith with all States from all regions, as well as with civil society. The Czech Republic will promote freedom of expression and information as a gateway to the enjoyment of a wider range of human rights, including freedom of assembly and of association.
- We will continue to cooperate closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to advocate its independence and impartiality and to make voluntary financial contributions to it.
- The Czech Republic will continue its support for the international human rights mechanisms. We will continue to cooperate fully with all the Council's special procedures, to which the Czech Republic issued a standing invitation in September 2000 as one of the first Members of the United Nations, and we stand ready to respond rapidly to any requests for visits. We will continue to submit our national reports to the human rights treaty bodies in a timely manner and to follow up on their recommendations. We will continue to participate actively in universal periodic review dialogues and to offer recommendations to States.
- The Czech Republic will continue to strongly support equal participation in political and public affairs and free and enabling space for civil society. We will also continue to strongly support the engagement of non-governmental organizations with the Human Rights Council and to speak out against any acts of intimidation or reprisal against persons who seek to cooperate, are cooperating or have cooperated with human rights mechanisms.
- We will continue to contribute, through development cooperation and transition promotion policy projects that are fully in line with the Sustainable

Development Goals, to the support for and protection of human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance in partner countries.

- The Czech Republic will continue to support the building of institutions that promote the rule of law, including through activities aimed at combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

At the national level

- We pledge to submit a universal periodic review midterm report in 2020 and to report to the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session, in March 2019, on the early implementation of several of the recommendations made in 2017 that it supports.
- We pledge to make effective use of the permanent consultative structures of the Government, such as the Government Council for Human Rights and its working bodies, to ensure continuous dialogue about human rights issues with academia and civil society organizations.
- We pledge to work for the early ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), as well as for the effective implementation of international human rights treaties at the national level.
- We pledge to continue to promote equality and non-discrimination among the Roma people and to support their social integration, political participation and empowerment, including through the work of the Government Agency for Social Inclusion.
- We pledge to continue to challenge gender stereotypes in society and to create equal opportunities among women and men, including through measures to increase the participation of women in decision-making and politics.
- We pledge to continue to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including through continued support for the effective political participation and employment of persons with disabilities.
- We pledge to further strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular by protecting children from all forms of violence and ensuring their right to grow up in a family environment.
- We pledge to sensitize Czech businesses, in particular State-owned businesses, to human rights, in particular by promoting dialogue on human rights among businesses, the State, trade unions, academia and civil society.
- We pledge to continue to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and to promote human rights in the context of employment and the environment.

United Nations A/73/83–E/2018/62

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

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7 May 2018

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General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Item 22 of the preliminary list*
Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Economic and Social Council
2018 session
27 July 2017–26 July 2018
Agenda item 18 (d)
Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/235. It is the first of a series of five quadrennial reports and an element of the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It describes the incremental and inclusive approach coordinated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities, for the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda as endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 71/256.

Many lessons, challenges and opportunities have become apparent in the 18 months since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, and the present report illustrates the progress being made by United Nations entities, national and subnational governments, local authorities and stakeholders in its implementation and monitoring.

The report is organized into five sections. Section I provides its context and purpose. Section II positions the New Urban Agenda vis-à-vis the other global development agendas adopted in 2015 and 2016, clarifying the interlinkages and describing how the New Urban Agenda is an accelerator for the achievement of all other agendas, and calling for coherence and integration in both policy and implementation.

Section III recommends an incremental approach to reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, based on four elements: (a) systems for the production of user-friendly and participatory data platforms that add to existing sources of data; (b) new and expanded platforms for engagement on knowledge

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production and reporting; (c) a United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism that strengthens and expands partnerships; and (d) capacities to report on the implementation of the sustainable urban development agendas, including data collection and analysis, policy development, implementation and stakeholder engagement.

Section IV describes the key stepping stones towards effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including governance structures and supportive frameworks; planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development; and means of implementation, including financing, innovations and capacity development.

Finally, Section V offers key recommendations to Member States.

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/24 and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/235.

2. The New Urban Agenda is about people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships in urban settings. It was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly on 23 December 2016.[1] In September 2017, the Assembly convened a high-level meeting, as called for in the Agenda, which discussed the effective implementation of the Agenda and the positioning of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and proposed the strengthening of UN-Habitat for more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

3. The present report, issued 18 months after the adoption of the Agenda, is the first in a series of five quadrennial reports and an element of the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Agenda. It assesses the current systems and resources in place to implement and monitor the Agenda and recommends steps to ensure the successful production of subsequent reports. The second quadrennial report, in 2022, will include quantitative and qualitative data resulting from the monitoring systems proposed in the present report. It will also include voluntary inputs from Member States and contributions from the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations, partners and stakeholders, using the platforms of engagement proposed in the present report.[2] The third quadrennial report, in 2026, will serve as a midterm review of the implementation of the Agenda, taking stock of progress and identifying possible improvements.

4. Since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, many urban challenges have intensified. Growing inequality, social exclusion and spatial segregation continue to have an impact on peoples' lives in most of the world's cities, producing a dramatic concentration of disadvantages in specific places and for specific people. Urban areas are increasingly epicentres of crises, insecurity and violence, fuelling displacement and forced migration. The majority of the 25 million refugees and 40 million internally displaced persons in the world today live in cities and urban settlements, often under difficult conditions. Housing remains largely unaffordable in both the developing and the developed world. Globally, 1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing,[3] of which approximately 1 billion live in slums and informal settlements lacking basic services. Accompanying the femininization of urban poverty, female-headed households in slums and informal settlements are growing. All of these forms of exclusion disproportionally affect women, youth, older persons, migrants and other marginalized groups.

5. Unsustainable models of urbanization persist, including informal and unplanned urban growth, that consume excessive land and energy and damage the environment. Nevertheless, many cities remain places of innovation, social change and prosperity. With the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the international community agreed that urbanization could be a driver of positive change. Subsequently, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030, adopted at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, highlighted again the transformative power of cities and recalled the genuine aspiration to leave no one and no place behind. The Agenda is the framework to

[1] General Assembly resolution 71/256.

[2] Ibid., paras. 162 and 166.

[3] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and Development — Emerging Futures* (Nairobi, 2016).

integrate and elevate the vital role that cities must play in decision-making and realizing development transformations.

6. It is important to highlight that Governments face various challenges in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban components of the Sustainable Development Goals. Such challenges include low levels of awareness regarding the potential benefits of urbanization and of urban-related commitments made in global development agendas. National authorities face further challenges, such as low institutional and fiscal capacity, lack of development financing and weak multilevel governance structures and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda demands local actions. This requires an institutional, organizational, policy and financial capacity, which is often lacking or poorly developed. Local governments are frequently ill equipped in terms of financial and human resources, which hinders their ability to plan, manage and execute the transformative policies and actions in the Agenda. The capacity to strengthen devolution and local autonomy in many countries is low, and many cities continue to lack local revenues, taxes and financial resources to manage challenges related to urbanization. This is aggravated by the scarcity of well-trained personnel, which hinders the development and use of innovative policies and urban management instruments.

7. The reporting mechanisms of the New Urban Agenda link to those of other global commitments and development agendas that address these urban challenges. Tracking progress on and assessing the impact of the implementation of the Agenda on all scales requires an integrated approach combining both quantitative and qualitative data, including spatial varieties of both. Monitoring implementation of the Agenda also provides the opportunity to increase ownership among implementing partners, including many marginalized groups that can play an invaluable role in implementation.

8. The present report was prepared in consultation with 23 United Nations entities, 5 regional economic and social commissions and 30 partners. It builds on the Habitat III process, which included various multi-stakeholder platforms, regional and thematic conferences, policy units and the consultative processes facilitated by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments and the General Assembly of Partners. It concludes with recommendations for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda until 2036, which will require substantial commitment and support from public, private and non-governmental entities alike during the coming years.

II. Strengthening the interlinkages between global development agendas

9. The New Urban Agenda emphasizes the importance of strongly interlinking global development agendas,[4] particularly those which precede it. It is an accelerator for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, among others. The ongoing efforts to implement the New Urban Agenda are inextricable from the fulfilment of the goals, principles and targets of the other agendas, all of which have important urban and territorial dimensions. Understanding the range of interdependencies among them is key to unlocking their

[4] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 6, 9, 11, 12, 77, 79, 127, 128 and 150.

full potential, optimizing resources and leveraging resource development outcomes at every level of government, within the United Nations system and across all sectors and stakeholders.

A. Coherence among global agendas at the urban level

10. The 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of reinforcing and complementing the global agendas to avoid inefficiencies and reduce or minimize negative interactions.[5] A better understanding of these interlinkages will inform balanced decision-making to recognize necessary trade-offs and adopt long-lasting solutions. Systematic monitoring and analysis, coupled with policies and initiatives to build coherence across the global development agendas, is necessary to achieve the holistic approach of the New Urban Agenda. Universal concepts such as "leave no one behind"; progressive approaches to human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment; the adoption of various United Nations conventions and agreements;[6] and the efforts of some national and local governments to enshrine the "right to the city" vision[7] and implement comprehensive evidence-based approaches to end violence against women and girls,[8] are important foundations and cross references for integrated implementation. Significant positive interactions are achieved when multisectoral, multi-stakeholder governance and partnerships are adopted, and when financial resources and technology are used in a more efficient manner to support horizontal relations and policy coherence across sectors and actors, as proposed in the present report.[9]

11. The interlinkages between the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, are extensive. More than half of the Goal targets have an urban component, linked to about 60 per cent of the Goal indicators. Some of the links between the Goals and the Agenda are straightforward. This is the case, for instance, with Goal 4 on education, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 16 on good governance and Goal 17 on partnerships and means of implementation, which are strongly connected to sustainable urbanization. Issues such as climate change, housing and slums, financing, sustainable production and consumption, inequalities, infrastructure and basic services, gender equality, gender-based violence, food security and nutrition, and migration are inextricably linked to cities. Policies and strategies that respond to those issues together can transform potential synergies into holistic action.[10]

12. Likewise, there is strong evidence that integrated urban planning, access to basic services, slum upgrading, and decent and affordable housing reduce non-communicable diseases and limit environmental impacts, supporting Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health and well-being, Goal 7 on energy and Goal 13 on climate.[11] Similarly, the provision of regional and urban infrastructure, as a component of Goal 9, contributes to enhancing markets and value chains, supporting

[5] International Council for Science, *A Guide to Sustainable Development Goal Interactions: From Science to Implementation*, D.J. Griggs and others, eds. (Paris, 2017).

[6] Notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 11.

[8] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), "Safe cities and safe public spaces: global results report" (New York, 2017).

[9] International Council for Science, *A Guide to Sustainable Development Goal Interactions*.

[10] Ibid.

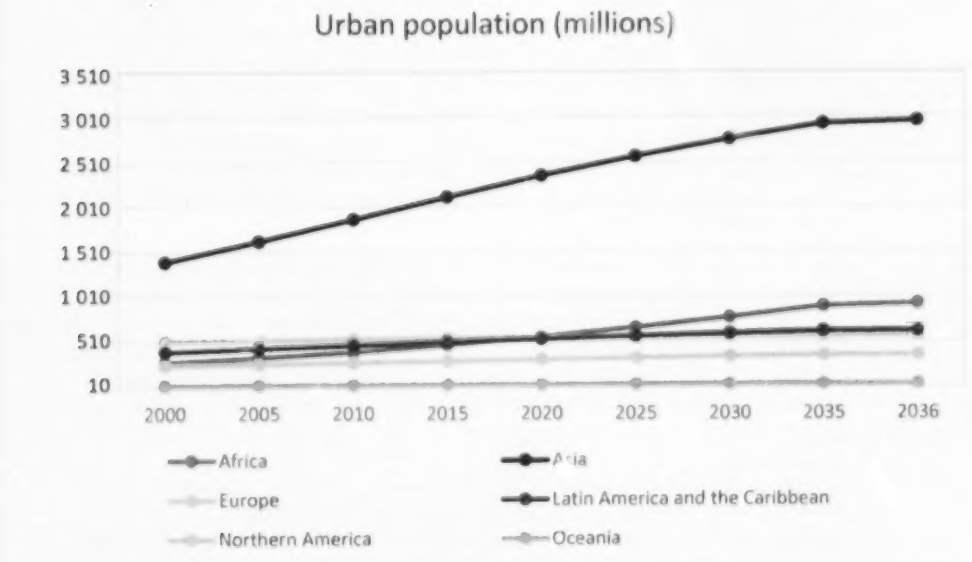
[11] Ibid.

Goal 8 on work and economic growth and Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production, and creating better rural-urban interlinkages that favour the attainment of Goal 2 on achieving food security and improved nutrition and improving sustainable agriculture.[12]

13. The New Urban Agenda has a strong gender equality component, connecting it with Sustainable Development Goal 5. As noted by United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), violence against women, sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence are a global pandemic violating the right of women and girls to live free from fear and violence, and many of these issues are intensified in urban settings. For example, when residents must endure longer commuting times and higher transportation costs, for women this can also mean exposure to violence, harassment or insecurity. Similarly, the lack of access to basic services, affordable housing options and land tenure rights disproportionately affects women. These dynamics inform the attention of the present report to the concerted need for collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in every context, which is vital to ensuring the gender-responsive and therefore successful implementation of the Urban Agenda.

14. In recognition of the benefits of synergistic responses, the Agenda calls for improvements in the training and capacity of urban planners to ensure that they respond to integrated challenges comprehensively. Progress on this objective is vital to successfully achieving not only Sustainable Development Goal 11 but also all of the global development agendas.[13]

Figure I
Urban population, by continent, 2000–2036

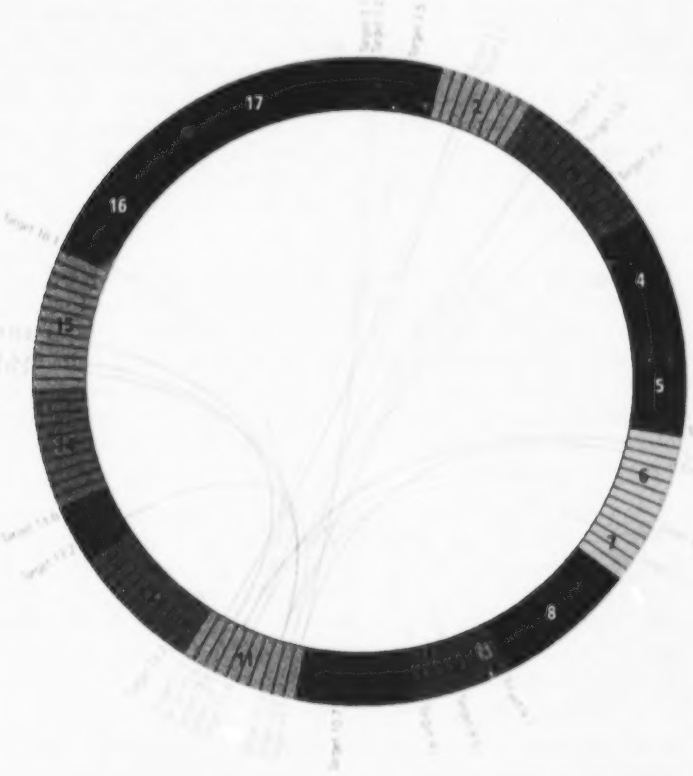


Source: World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision.

[12] See supplementary materials for the present report prepared via a consultative process, available from http://nua.unhabitat.org.

[13] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 102.

Figure II
The impact of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on the other Goals



15. UN-Habitat, as a focal point within the United Nations system on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, is working in close collaboration with United Nations system entities and the Statistics Division to complement the Sustainable Development Goal monitoring framework process by including specific components of the Agenda that are not covered by Goal indicators. For instance, the Agenda and target 11.b of Goal 11 call for cities and human settlements to adopt and implement integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and resilience to disasters. In response, the United Nations system, led by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, is mobilizing Governments and key partners to achieve this objective. In addition, cities and mayors are increasingly taking the initiative and responsibility for local-level monitoring and the development of local plans to implement the Paris Agreement, sometimes independently of national level support. Examples include national networks of cities addressing climate change, such as the 402 cities within the United States Climate Mayors platform, as well as globe-spanning organizations such as Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments, the World Association of the Major Metropolises, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and other collaborative initiatives such as Planners for Climate Action.

B. Enhancing policy coherence

16. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda helps facilitate the achievement of other development agendas, presenting an enabling foundation through specific policies, plans, approaches and actions in the urban context. One example is engendering national urban policies[14] to implement Sustainable Development Goal 5. Alignment is a key concept of policy coherence that refers to actors, sectors and scales of intervention across the implementation continuum. National urban policies are, for instance, key instruments to amalgamate the often disjointed energies and potential of urban centres, establishing synergetic connections and policy coherence by aligning the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development.[15]

17. The innumerable connections among global goals and targets demand more research and knowledge about the factors that shape them. The City Prosperity Initiative of UN-Habitat has made important progress in understanding the nature and strength of, and the relationship among, the different dimensions of sustainable urbanization. Implemented in more than 400 cities, the Initiative has contributed to understanding and leveraging synergetic relations, providing policymakers, investors and other stakeholders with the information necessary for adopting more informed and comprehensive policies.

18. There must also be coherence among the critical upcoming milestones of the global agendas, including the next meeting of the Group of 20 in 2018 with Urban 20 (U20), led by the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and the United Nations *Global Sustainable Development Report* in 2019, which will reflect on the achievements related to the urban and territorial dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. These outcomes will integrate and feed into the reporting system for the quadrennial reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as presented in the annex to the present document.

19. In coordination with all other United Nations system entities and the Statistics Division, significant progress has been made in the development of national capacities and training tools to help Member States collect, analyse and use urban data for monitoring progress in the implementation of these agendas.[12] UN-Habitat and the United Nations regional commissions have provided training to over 50 countries on monitoring various Sustainable Development Goal indicators and key thematic areas of the New Urban Agenda and have developed reference guidelines for national statistical offices.[16] If properly integrated, these tools can guide cities and countries towards coherent action on climate mitigation, sustainable urbanization and the concurrent realization of the Agenda and several Goal targets. To date, for example, close to 70 per cent of the submitted nationally determined contributions to implement the Paris Agreement show clear urban references, on which these training tools can build and which they strengthen.

20. An interlinked approach avoids overlap, ensures better use of human and financial capital and adds value by connecting the underlying principles among the agendas that may rely on the same funding envelopes, contain cross-cutting objectives and have an impact on the same communities. The New Urban Agenda has many concrete interlinkages with the monitoring methodology and indicators of the

[14] As discussed at the expert group meeting on engendering national urban policies, held during the Second International Conference on National Urban Policy, held in May 2017 in Paris.

[15] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016*.

[16] UN-Habitat, "Sustainable urbanization in the Paris Agreement: comparative review of nationally determined contributions for urban content" (Nairobi, 2017). Available from https://unhabitat.org/books/sustainable-urbanization-in-the-paris-agreement.

Sustainable Development Goals, which were developed in collaboration with the Statistics Division and other United Nations system entities. For example, the monitoring of air quality and short-lived climate pollutants in urban spaces can utilize indicator 9.1 of Goal 3 and indicator 6.2 of Goal 11. The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat, under the umbrella of UN-Water, have developed monitoring methodologies for tracking water quality. While some focus areas of the New Urban Agenda can be monitored effectively using existing indicators applied at the local level, UN-Habitat is currently developing a framework comprising complementary targets and indicators. This is vital to the successful monitoring of the implementation of the Agenda in alignment with the other agendas.

21. Balanced and integrated territorial development and the incorporation of urban and regional synergies is addressed in both the Agenda and the Goals,[17] presenting an opportunity to mainstream and integrate complementary monitoring into the quadrennial reports. National and local governments that are collecting data and monitoring the Agenda and Goals are not yet fully integrating global agendas into country processes and systems. The preparation of integrated reports on the urban dimensions of global agendas lessens the burden of monitoring and reporting on countries and cities, and contributes to connections across different funding mechanisms.

22. At the regional level, the European Union is examining the interlinkages with all development agendas and utilizing the New Urban Agenda as the implementing agenda of the urban dimensions of the global agreements through the Urban Agenda for the European Union[18] and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The African Union, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and UN-Habitat, is developing a regional framework aligned with Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other initiatives.

23. The creation of an overarching enabling environment for implementing the New Urban Agenda is a prerequisite for higher policy coherence. Since the adoption of the Agenda, the necessary and successful creation of an enabling environment — in terms of data access, knowledge, provision of municipal finance, expertise and capacity development — has yet to be fostered in many places, particularly at the local level. This is a critical gap. Methods to measure progress in creating an enabling environment include the city enabling environment rating in the Asia-Pacific region, and the *Assessing the Institutional Environment of Local Governments in Africa* report, developed jointly by the Cities Alliance initiative and United Cities and Local Governments. The Agenda and related global agendas cannot be achieved without the leadership of local and subnational governments, in tandem with relevant stakeholders, and in recognition of the need to assess the enabling environments necessary for more coherent national urban policies.

C. Progress towards an integrated approach

24. As highlighted throughout the present document and in the supplementary materials provided on the UN-Habitat website,[12] some local, subnational and national governments have made progress in developing connected local plans and processes for the follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda and are achieving synergies between the different global agendas.

[17] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 15, 23, 50, 88, 98, 119 and 136.

[18] Available from https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/node/1829.

25. Various forms of data, including spatial and qualitative information such as best practices and community-based data, are relevant for the monitoring of and reporting on implementation of the global agendas, and the proper analysis and application of such data are vital to the achievement of the goals contained in those agendas. For instance, the World Bank, through the Global Land Tool Network, has developed land indicators to measure tenure security with the support of donors. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is developing refined guides and tools for mapping crime and violence, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is identifying qualitative factors in which culture can play a role in achieving the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. At the national level, many countries, including Botswana, Colombia, India and Tunisia, have developed joint workplans to monitor and report on global agendas. In Mexico, the Institute of the National Workers' Housing Fund, the largest housing bank in Latin America, implemented the City Prosperity Initiative on a nationwide scale, enabling the Government to use data and information to produce more than 100 city action plans based on this information. This demonstrates a clear institutional impact in which data and metrics have served to provide substance to the elaboration of these plans.

27. Local governments are making similar efforts: the Seoul Metropolitan Government launched the Seoul Sustainable Development Goals, which include the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 96 indicators, with a clear link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda. Another example of effective local integration of the Goals and the Agenda is seen in the city of Mannheim, Germany, which initiated its local agenda, Mannheim 2030, after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, aligned with German efforts to monitor progress towards Agenda 2030 concurrently with the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda at the national level. Part of this effort is the integrated city charter management tool that the city of Mannheim, Germany, developed with input from its citizens to identify the city's monitoring and implementation priorities in an inclusive manner. These and other city experiences show that adequate resources at the municipal level are vital to achieving successful local contextualization.

28. It is important to systematically identify positive and negative interactions, map existing institutions and actors with the capacity to deliver on these agendas, ensure that new mechanisms are put in place for policy integration and coherence,[19] identify complementary monitoring indicators and establish mechanisms to synthesize and report on them.

III. Developing an incremental and inclusive reporting system

29. The process for reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda complements and supports the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda and other global sustainability agendas. Most of the reporting related to the New Urban Agenda draws on the system of indicators and data that are available from the 2030 Agenda monitoring framework coordinated by the Statistics Division.

30. An incremental approach to reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is needed, building on the Sustainable Development Goal global monitoring framework and efforts led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Statistics Division. This approach focuses on four interrelated elements: (a) reinforcing systems for the production of user-friendly and participatory data platforms; (b) building on existing dynamic platforms for engagement, participation

[19] International Council for Science, *A Guide to Sustainable Development Goal Interactions*.

and partnership, integrating partners into the process to produce data, knowledge and reporting; (c) strengthening partnerships with relevant entities of the United Nations system through a United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism; and (d) developing capacities to report on the effective implementation of the sustainable urban development agendas.

31. Such an incremental approach to the quadrennial reports will be the structural basis for the preparation of subsequent reports as presented in annex I. This will build awareness on transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda and its links with other development agendas, working closely with the Statistics Division and United Nations system entities to enhance ownership while supporting broad-based monitoring and review.

A. Systems for the production of user-friendly and participatory data platforms

32. The New Urban Agenda requires that reporting on the progress of its implementation be country-led, outlining an inclusive process that integrates the actions of a wide range of stakeholders, complementing the work of national Governments, including the collation of data and information and their use in policy formulation.[20]

33. Monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda will continue to benefit from investments in strengthening the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agenda monitoring platforms. In its focal point role, UN-Habitat has begun to assess, together with Secretariat departments and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the monitoring gaps for areas specific to the New Urban Agenda and to orient existing tools and initiatives to support this, such as its City Prosperity Initiative and the City Resilience Profiling tool. The novel local and urban nature of the indicators for Goal 11 is prompting the development of methodologies for the collection and harmonization of data.

34. United Nations entities, the Statistical Commission, the regional economic and social commissions, United Nations country teams, multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions are all providing coherent support to national reporting on multiple development agendas, with important progress being made, for instance, in the harmonization of data for better comparability. As part of this process, a functional definition of the city has been proposed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, UN-Habitat and other partners for consideration by countries in order to better compare and aggregate data consistently.

35. Important global and regional trends with significant implications for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda require innovative forms of mapping and measurement to ensure systematic reporting at the country and city levels. This is the case with the urban expansion of cities, which on average, have been increasing in size twice as fast as the urban population growth, with a concomitant reduction of urban densities.[21] To aid future global and regional urban monitoring, the Global Sample of Cities,[22] involving 200 cities, was developed, as part of the proposed incremental approach to reporting on the Agenda. In support of country monitoring and reporting, the Statistical Commission, at its forty-eighth session, discussed the adoption of a national sample of cities that allows for systematic reporting, higher comparability among countries and aggregation of

[20] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 166-167.

[21] UN-Habitat, *World Cities Report 2016*.

[22] UN-Habitat, *The Fundamentals of Urbanization: Evidence Base for Policy Making* (2016).

regional values. The need for spatial data has also been recognized by other entities such as the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. These efforts will require the development and strengthening of skills and systems for collecting and reporting on spatially dependent global indicators and targets.

36. New forms of data, the disaggregation of data and new methods of spatial analysis are being developed by various organizations. The ways in which urban performance is measured has a significant impact on the implementation of all the global development agendas. For example, the Urban Data Platform (see http://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu) developed by the European Commission is merging traditional information sources, fine-scale satellite imagery, census data, volunteered geographic information and big data to form multifaceted data sets and produce consistent spatial urban indicators. Specific stakeholder-produced data related to gender and age, persons with disabilities and other groups is enriching measurement tools. Examples include community-based enumerations such as the Know Your City global initiative of Shack Dwellers International. Such initiatives will play a crucial role in strengthening data and the statistical capacities of national Governments to effectively monitor and report on progress achieved, and inform decision-making at different levels.[23]

37. With more than 320 local and national urban observatories, the UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory is a global repository for urban data that addresses multiple territorial levels and can be complemented by topical data from other sources, including United Nations entities. Flagship reports produced by various United Nations entities, including the *World Cities Report*, are other potential complements to the quadrennial report process.

B. Reinforcing platforms for engagement, participation and partnership for monitoring and reporting

38. The leading role in reporting on implementation of the New Urban Agenda lies with national Governments. Guidelines for country-led, voluntary reporting on the implementation of the Agenda are being developed by UN-Habitat and will be tested and adjusted by mid-2019. National Governments, including those of Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uganda and the State of Palestine, have also established intersectoral bodies, national habitat committees and other national participatory monitoring platforms.

39. The high-level political forum on sustainable development is the central mechanism for assessing and reporting progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Global reporting requirements on the multiple agendas are being met progressively, with increasing focus on issues of the New Urban Agenda, linkages between global reporting timelines and efforts to ensure coordination between UN-Habitat and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

40. Regional mechanisms, notably the regional forums for sustainable development convened by the United Nations regional economic and social commissions, are instrumental platforms for peer learning and addressing regional priorities. The African Union, the League of Arab States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the European Union, the subregional platform for implementing the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean States and the regional conferences of ministers of housing and urban development also play key roles in addressing regional and subregional urban priorities.

[23] General Assembly resolution 71/256, paras. 158–160.

41. The Asia-Pacific Urban Forum of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has called for action through regional cooperation that engages stakeholders to implement the New Urban Agenda. The 2019 Forum will review progress and launch the *Future of Asia-Pacific Cities* report, providing an analysis of emerging trends related to the implementation of the Agenda and Goals.

42. Local and regional governments are already producing information that substantiates progress on the Agenda. Such voluntary national review efforts are supported by many local governments, including by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments. The World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment and the Global Municipal Database have also helped monitor change in subnational financial resources and understand finance at the local level.

43. The New Urban Agenda recognizes specific roles for subnational and local government associations represented in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities. Research institutions and platforms also play critical roles in monitoring implementation of the Agenda and urban components of the Sustainable Development Goals[24] and continue to provide important technical support to local authorities.

44. Knowledge-sharing mechanisms and inclusive reporting platforms are essential for engaging partners and collecting data in a cross-sectoral manner. The ninth session of the World Urban Forum, convened in 2018 by UN-Habitat, provided an opportunity to assess the challenges and first steps towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Upcoming Forums will constitute a key platform to further capture knowledge and innovations.[25] The online Quito implementation plan platform, established after the Habitat III Conference, should be strengthened by 2019 to become a dynamic system for gathering knowledge, best practices and data. Urban Thinkers Campuses also continue to engage partners for collaborative action towards implementation of the Agenda. An important platform to disseminate these achievements is the best practice platform that builds on the Dubai International Award for Best Practices, with categories now aligned with the Agenda, which will be fully operational by 2019. Finally, independent platforms and stakeholder networks, such as the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the General Assembly of Partners, promote bottom-up monitoring and reporting on the Agenda and the Goals.

C. Partnerships within the United Nations development system

45. The New Urban Agenda constitutes the basis of a United Nations system-wide approach to the implementation of the urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the global development agendas. Thus far, 12 United Nations entities have a strategy for implementing the Agenda in place and another three agencies are currently preparing such a strategy. WHO and UNICEF are pursuing joint activities for the monitoring of water and sanitation components of the Agenda, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and UN-Habitat are undertaking joint activities for the monitoring of land tenure components. Such integrated approaches will intensify participation and coordination at the global, regional, national and local levels.

46. United Nations entities have pursued efforts to refine and harmonize the global indicators framework adopted by the Statistical Commission to make progress in the

[24] Timon McPhearson and others, "Building urban science to achieve the New Urban Agenda" Available from www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/10/24/building-urban-science-to-achieve-the-new-urban-agenda.

[25] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 167.

monitoring and review of the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. At the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, United Nations entities assembled to review and further develop proposed actions, frameworks and joint financing mechanisms. For example, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and UN-Habitat held a meeting on harmonizing the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Agenda and Goal 11.

47. At the global level, UNEP and UN-Habitat, through the Greener Cities Partnership, are working jointly to implement the Agenda by promoting environmental sustainability in urban development. UNESCO has been positioning and supporting culture as a key driver and enabler of the 2030 Agenda, working with other United Nations entities to develop a measurement system for its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. UN-Habitat is mainstreaming the New Urban Agenda through other inter-agency mechanisms such as UN-Water, UN-Energy and the High-level Advisory Group of the Secretary-General on Sustainable Transport.

49. In strengthening collaboration across humanitarian and development action in relevant settings, UN-Habitat is working closely with other United Nations entities, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Food Programme to integrate sustainable urban development practices into humanitarian response.

50. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recently launched a sustainable urbanization strategy and is promoting the right to adequate housing. It co-funds activities in Bahrain, Guyana and Lesotho to develop effective, efficient and sustainable housing sectors and contribute to the achievement of target 11.1 of Goal 11. Likewise, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has created materials on the right to adequate housing, and is referring complainants to the office of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context.

51. Other inter-agency activities and programmes include the Framework for the Urban Food Agenda of FAO to enhance the sustainability of food systems for urban areas. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research, IOM and the World Bank are supporting the annual global Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development. The 2017 Global Conference on Cities and Migration was an important platform for sharing expertise on and raising awareness of migration aspects of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, expected to be adopted later in 2018.

52. The United Nations regional economic and social commissions play a key role in building awareness and mobilizing political support towards the sustainable development agendas. ESCAP convened the United Nations inter-agency Task Team on Urbanization, a regional partners forum, in 2017 to review the implementation of the Agenda and the localization of the Goals. ECLAC and other United Nations entities, with the conference of ministers of housing and urban development, are leading the formulation of a regional action plan to implement the Agenda. In the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Smart Cities programme is being implemented to address the major urban issues in medium-sized cities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia has started its implementation activities in housing and sustainable development. ECA is supporting African Member States to integrate urbanization into national development planning, with a focus on strengthening economic and spatial policies and strategies. This has resulted in

selected countries committing to a multisectoral approach to urbanization, linked to national targets for inclusive growth and transformation.

53. At the national level, various countries are participating in the UN-Women global flagship initiative, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, focused on comprehensive approaches to addressing everyday forms of crime and violence, including sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women, youth and children, in public and private spaces. UN-Women, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, its Advisory Group on Gender Issues and the Huairou Commission, is elaborating a guidance note to support Member States in integrating gender dimensions into urban planning, implementation and monitoring efforts.

54. At the local level, UNEP is coordinating the District Energy in Cities Initiative with 43 partners from the financial and private sectors. It also supports the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in over 30 cities, aimed at leveraging financing for sustainable and resilient district-scale heating, cooling and power plans and projects in medium-sized cities.

55. Partnerships between United Nations entities and universities worldwide, such as the Higher Education for Sustainability Initiative and the UN-Habitat University Network Initiative, gather large numbers of knowledge-based institutions and provide training and capacity development to strengthen policy design, monitoring and reporting.

56. In the context of fragile States, disaster, conflict and other acute vulnerabilities, training and capacity development activities are being organized to connect humanitarian and development efforts, including better monitoring of the scale and impact of forced displacement in cities.

57. The institutionalization of the monitoring and reporting process is key for ensuring continuity and robustness in national processes oriented towards achieving the New Urban Agenda. Financial resources to undertake capacity development will be needed to strengthen platforms, dialogues, networks, online applications and training of multiple stakeholders.

IV. Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda

58. As an accelerator of the achievement of global development agendas, the New Urban Agenda and its follow-up and review provide opportunities to better understand and implement the urban and territorial dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. In its resolution 71/256, the General Assembly encouraged UN-Habitat to continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and related dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, and to further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in close consultation with Member States, local authorities and stakeholders.

59. The implementation framework proposed by the New Urban Agenda addresses governance structures, the planning and management of urban spatial development and means of implementation, including financing, innovation and capacity development.

A. Building a governance structure and establishing a supportive framework

60. The successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires coordination at all levels. An urban and territorial governance structure based on a regulatory and

policy framework and the principle of subsidiarity can strengthen the legitimacy and accountability of policymakers and local authorities, empowering these key implementers of the Agenda.

61. The first reporting period for the implementation of the Agenda shows that regional action plans can provide guidance for national and local frameworks and help mainstream the Agenda into decision-making. This is the case with the Urban Agenda for the European Union, the regional action plan for implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean,[26] the Arab strategy for housing and sustainable urban development, the ESCAP Regional Partners Forum and the harmonized regional framework for the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda in Africa.

62. Subregional efforts have also been made to prepare unified agendas, such as the urban agenda of the Union for the Mediterranean, the subregional action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Caribbean and the plan for coastal cities in Pacific small island developing States.

63. Equally, countries are preparing action plans for the implementation of the Agenda and the Goals. As reported in the *Global State of National Urban Policy* report prepared by UN-Habitat and OECD, 76 of the 150 countries analysed have adopted explicit national urban policies with strong connections to the Agenda.[27] Yet, most of these countries lack a specialized national institution to oversee the effectiveness of the implementation of national urban policies. In about 20 countries, international agencies are providing direct support to the follow-up to and review of national urban policies.

64. National Governments are making efforts to strengthen urban governance institutions and stakeholder collaboration through the organization of conferences and national urban forums, as in the cases of Argentina, Belize, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Sweden. National habitat committees created as part of Habitat II are still operating in a number of countries, engaging government, civil society and the private sector in urban debates.[28] In Afghanistan, despite multiple challenges, the Agenda has been implemented in an integrated framework to build the future of Afghan cities, championed by the Head of State with support from the United Nations system.[29]

65. Local governments have organized broad-based policy dialogues on local Agenda implementation plans. Quito has oriented its strategies and its Vision 2040 towards implementing the Agenda and localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, with significant progress to date, including the adoption of a resilience strategy and disaster risk management plan, reformulation of the plan of development and territorial organization, and creation of more sustainable, gender-responsive public transport. Madrid, through an open source application, allows citizens to decide how to spend part of the city's budget and shape its future development policies. UNDP is creating conditions to share this initiative with other capital cities.

66. At the thematic level, the Agenda encourages countries to consider intersectoral interventions. The increasing synergies between city and regional plans, urban resilience and climate change actions show progress in this area. Examples include

[26] Available from https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/42146/S1800032_en.pdf?sequence=7&isAllowed=y.

[27] Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UN-Habitat, *Global State of National Urban Policy* (Paris, OECD Publishing, and Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2018).

[28] UN-Habitat, "Guide on national habitat committees: purpose and composition" (Nairobi, 1996).

[29] UN-Habitat, "Balanced social and economic development of Afghanistan's cities". Available from http://nua.unhabitat.org/details1.asp?ProjectId=1&ln=1.

the city resilience initiatives taking place under the City Resilience Programme of the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, which are helping over 30 cities to raise funds for climate resilience and disaster risk response.

67. In least developed countries, it has been observed that building an urban governance structure is not an easy task owing to the lack of appropriate institutional frameworks. This has resulted in weak participation by various stakeholders. Especially in low-income, conflict and fragile countries, community participation in planning initiatives is essential to the effective implementation of the Agenda, yet supportive frameworks need to be strengthened.

68. UN-Habitat has supported countries such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and Sri Lanka in their efforts to fully engage local authorities in community collaboration, including through the active participation of women and youth.

B. Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development

69. Effective spatial planning and management, including the use of territorial approaches, plays a key role in enabling the effective implementation of the Agenda at the local level.[30] Territorial analysis aids the understanding of the potential advantages of urban economies of agglomeration and scale that are critical for economic growth and prosperity.

70. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning[31] are overarching guidelines which have accelerated effective spatial planning. They provide a set of key principles and recommendations for achieving compact, socially inclusive, integrated, connected and climate-resilient cities and territories. With the use of the Guidelines, a number of countries are integrating spatial or territorial dimensions into their existing planning systems while others are creating new ones. Both demonstrate the value of better spatial planning for transformative action.

71. Cities such as Jakarta, Quito, Madrid and Durban, South Africa, are incorporating urban planning approaches into their local development plans and connecting these to the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. Using such approaches, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration has supported a new generation of urban operations related to housing affordability in Costa Rica, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. Several planning instruments address cross-cutting themes by using, for instance, gender-centric tools. In Spain, the mandatory gender impact statements of all urban and territorial plans at the subnational and local levels became an effective legal requirement in 2017. Another tool is the promotion of urban integrated strategies and operations, place-based interventions that generate positive impacts on the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. In response to New Urban Agenda principles, the World Bank and the regional development banks are financing territorial development initiatives to address the challenge of increasing inequalities and exclusion in growing urban agglomerations, such as in East Asia and the Pacific.

72. Cities are also applying planned city extensions and infills to accelerate progress towards the New Urban Agenda commitment of efficient land use. In Ghana, a planned city extension to the Accra metropolitan area is under way, while cities in

[30] General Assembly resolution 71/256, para. 15.

[31] Approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in April 2015.

Belize, the Comoros, Kenya, the Philippines and Somalia are developing similar strategies.

73. Urban planning is also instrumental in peacebuilding. In Latin America, the Government of Colombia has put forward a series of institutional and policy changes to promote the national peacebuilding process.[32] In Iraq, the UN-Habitat Mosul mapping and data portal (available from http://unhabitatiraq.net/mosulportal), a participatory city information system, has proven to be an effective spatial planning tool for conflict recovery. Public space design has also been applied to peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict and violence to foster the integration of refugees and migrants in Colombia, Kenya, Lebanon and Somalia, among other places.

C. Means of implementation

74. Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires a wide range of approaches, including mobilization of financial resources, innovations, enhanced advocacy, awareness and focused capacity development. The following are illustrative examples that have been implemented thus far.

75. There is an increasing recognition of the productive role of cities and urban territories in financing infrastructure to ensure inclusion, prosperity and sustainability. Progress in redefining and refocusing finance towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda has been moving forward in specific programmes linked to the productive capacity of cities. Nevertheless, it is evident that the Agenda and other development agendas are being implemented within the context of a stagnation, or even decline, in the share of development assistance available for urban projects and programmes.

76. In December 2017, the General Assembly encouraged UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to align large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda. The Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund have all facilitated increased investment in sustainable urbanization, as has the strengthening of local infrastructure funds and municipal development corporations.

77. Development finance institutions such as the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank are assisting cities and national Governments to create financial frameworks that attract new investments for sustainable growth. In East Africa, the World Bank is investing up to $1 billion in urban projects aimed at improving the financial and institutional performance of cities. It has also helped 240 city governments to tap into domestic and regional capital markets without a sovereign guarantee, and to support disaster risk and climate-related initiatives.

78. Progress in urban financing has also included fiscal decentralization, management of local assets, mobilization of local resources through property tax reforms, gender budgeting, diversification of subnational government revenue sources and improvements in revenue administration. For example, tools related to land value capture are increasingly being applied to increase revenue from infrastructure in cities in Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt and India, as well as in several Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. OECD has supported fiscal decentralization in a number of low- and middle-income countries. Nevertheless, effective fiscal decentralization has yet to be implemented in

[32] See http://projects.worldbank.org/P158520?lang=en.

many least developed countries, where urban development will be particularly critical in the coming decades.[33]

79. Effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda requires the upscaling of urban innovations, which in turn requires an environment conducive to sharing and learning. Successful examples include urban poor families funding their own health insurance by trading recyclable waste in Malang, Indonesia, and mapping informal communities to empower citizens with data in Nairobi, both of which have begun to catalyse positive change across sectoral boundaries.[34]

80. Smart city programmes, creative industries, new infrastructure developments and disruptive technologies bring important advances in energy, transport and service provision that have the power to catalyse rapid urban change. Technologically advanced cities are using open data to monitor and better manage urban development, such as in the Smart Dubai initiative.

81. Using augmented reality in conjunction with public space planning through a collaboration with Ericsson and Mojang, the maker of Minecraft, UN-Habitat is engaging young people in the design of public spaces within their communities. A test has been conducted in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the development of a public space strategy for the city.

82. The institutional and human resource capacity of national, subnational and local governments, as well as other stakeholders, is essential for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Cities Development Initiative for Asia, being implemented by ADB and the German Agency for International Cooperation with funding from the Governments of Austria, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, along with the Shanghai municipal government, has the potential to synchronize the capacity development of its city infrastructure investment programming and prioritization with the implementation of the Agenda in more than 90 cities. A programme executed by ECLAC and UN-Habitat is aligning the Agenda with Goal 11 in cities in Latin America. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is training local officials on the use of data and monitoring systems to support the implementation of the Agenda, in cooperation with UNDP and UN-Habitat.

83. The ongoing scale-up of capacity development is taking various forms and engages knowledge-based institutions. Ongoing national capacity development programmes in Brazil, Ethiopia and Indonesia are scaling up through distance learning, in situ courses for civil servants and on-the-job training. Universities such as the Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Monterrey, Mexico, and the University of Nairobi in Kenya are incorporating the Agenda and the Goals in their regular education. The Latin America and Caribbean programme of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is providing online and in situ training for improving land supply for sustainable urban development. The Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative, sponsored by the Government of Germany in cooperation with UN-Habitat, Local Governments for Sustainability, ADB and others, is training urban leaders on all continents on sustainable mobility. The European Union URBACT programme is supporting capacity development in over 500 European cities related to efficient and sustainable urban policies and practices.

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[33] OECD and United Cities and Local Governments, "Subnational governments around the world: structure and finance — a first contribution to the global observatory on local finances" (2016).

[34] Global Agenda Council on the Future of Cities, "Top ten urban innovations" (World Economic Forum, 2015). Available from http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Top_10_Emerging_Urban_Innovations_report_2010_20.10.pdf.

V. Recommendations

84. While reviewing the implementation of the New Urban Agenda during the past 18 months, opportunities for exchanging best practices, managing platforms and integrating the Agenda with other global agendas have emerged. On the basis of the present report, the Secretary-General makes the following recommendations:

(a) The Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division are invited to consider the adoption of a national sample of cities for the harmonization, comparison and aggregation of data on regional and global scales, which will support Member States in reporting on the implementation of the Agenda;

(b) The United Nations system may wish to strengthen the capacities of national and subnational governments to implement, monitor and report on the Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with knowledge-based institutions;

(c) The United Nations system should strengthen existing multi-stakeholder platforms that facilitate participation and engagement at all levels and support Member States in reporting on the Agenda and the Goals;

(d) Member States may wish to further develop, as appropriate, inclusive, evidence-based and integrated national urban policies, as catalysts for implementing the Agenda and urban dimensions of the Goals at the national and local levels;

(e) In the spirit of localizing the Agenda and the Goals, Member States may also support the collection and analysis by subnational and local authorities of disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data, including gender indicators, to inform policymaking and ensure that no one and no place is left behind in implementation of the Goals;

(f) Long-term and predictable financing mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of the Agenda, including the capacity of subnational governments to raise revenue from their own sources, should be created.

Annex

Global milestones and systems, 2018–2036

Year	*Global milestones*[a]	*Systems outputs*
2018	**First quadrennial report** High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) World Urban Forum (ninth session) Global Climate Action Summit	Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 First quadrennial report: proposal of system for reporting Guidelines for country reporting High-level political forum on sustainable development report on Goal 11
2019	*Global Sustainable Development Report*, high-level political forum on sustainable development Sixth World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-seventh session)	UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-seventh session): dialogue on implementation of the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2019*
2020	World Urban Forum (tenth session)	Sustainable Development Goal 11 indicators concluded Enhanced online Quito implementation plan platform operational World Urban Forum (tenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda Consultation process on the second quadrennial report Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda
2021	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-eighth session)	Country reports for the second quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2021* UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-eighth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of regional economic and social commissions
2022	**Second quadrennial report** **Midterm review of the Sustainable Development Goals** World Urban Forum (eleventh session) Seventh World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders	World Urban Forum (eleventh session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda
2023	UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-ninth session) Global stocktaking (nationally determined contributions, Paris Agreement)	UN-Habitat Governing Council (twenty-ninth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2023* High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process
2024	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) World Urban Forum (twelfth session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (twelfth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda

A/73/83
E/2018/62

Year	*Global milestones*[a]	*Systems outputs*
2025	Eighth World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirtieth session)	Country reports for the third quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2025* UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirtieth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of the regional economic and social commissions
2026	**Third quadrennial report** **Midterm review of the New Urban Agenda (Quito+10)** World Urban Forum (thirteenth session)	Midterm review report World Urban Forum (thirteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2027	*Global Sustainable Development Report*, high-level political forum on sustainable development High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-first session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-first session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2027*
2028	Global stocktaking World Urban Forum (fourteenth session) Ninth World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (fourteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2029	UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-second session)	Country reports for the fourth quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2029* UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-second session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of the regional economic and social commissions
2030	**Fourth quadrennial report** **Sustainable Development Goal summit** World Urban Forum (fifteenth session)	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (fifteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2031	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-third session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-third session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2031*
2032	**United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+40)** World Urban Forum (sixteenth session)	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (sixteenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda

Year	*Global milestones*[a]	*Systems outputs*
2033	UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fourth session) Global stocktaking	Country reports for the fifth quadrennial report *World Cities Report 2033* UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fourth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda Contributions of the regional economic and social commissions
2034	**Fifth quadrennial report** World Urban Forum (seventeenth session)	Biennial UN-Habitat progress report on the New Urban Agenda World Urban Forum (seventeenth session): dialogues on the New Urban Agenda
2035	High-level political forum on sustainable development (review of Sustainable Development Goal 11) UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fifth session)	High-level political forum on sustainable development consultative process UN-Habitat Governing Council (thirty-fifth session): dialogue on the New Urban Agenda *World Cities Report 2035*
2036	**Habitat IV**	Renewed political commitment to assess and consolidate progress on the New Urban Agenda

[a] Specific sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that address Sustainable Development Goal 11 and human settlements are to be determined.